

Smith (WA)	Thomas	Wamp
Snyder	Thompson (CA)	Waters
Souder	Thompson (MS)	Watkins
Spence	Thornberry	Watt (NC)
Spratt	Thune	Watts (OK)
Stabenow	Tiahrt	Waxman
Stearns	Tierney	Weiner
Stenholm	Toomey	Weldon (FL)
Strickland	Towns	Weldon (PA)
Stump	Trafigant	Weller
Stupak	Turner	Wexler
Sununu	Udall (CO)	Whitfield
Talent	Udall (NM)	Wicker
Tancred	Upton	Wilson
Tanner	Velazquez	Wolf
Tauscher	Vento	Woolsey
Tauzin	Visclosky	Wu
Taylor (MS)	Vitter	Wynn
Taylor (NC)	Walden	Young (AK)
Terry	Walsh	Young (FL)

## NAYS—4

Norwood	Royce
Paul	Stark

## NOT VOTING—13

Brown (CA)	Kasich	Thurman
Chenoweth	McDermott	Weygand
Combest	Meek (FL)	Wise
Gejdenson	Scarborough	
Hastings (FL)	Sweeney	

## □ 1515

Ms. BALDWIN changed her vote from "nay" to "yea."

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. WEYGAND. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent on Monday and earlier today due to the death of my uncle. Had I been here on Monday, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall votes 278 and 279. Today, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall 280.

## □ 1515

## GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the bill (H.R. 2466) making appropriations for the Department of Interior and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, and for other purposes, and that I may include tabular and extraneous material.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2000

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 243 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 2466.

## □ 1517

## IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole

House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 2466) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, and for other purposes, with Mr. LATOURETTE in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered as having been read the first time.

Under the rule, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. REGULA) and the gentleman from Washington (Mr. DICKS) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. REGULA).

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, for those who might not have noticed, this is Ohio day, both from the standpoint of the chairman of the two Appropriations bills being considered today and of the gentleman from Ohio presiding this afternoon.

Mr. Chairman, first of all, I want to pay a compliment to my ranking member, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. DICKS). This is his first year of being the Ranking Member on the subcommittee, and he has been a partner. We have worked together on the things in this bill in a nonpartisan way. I think it is fair, and I think a lot of this is thanks to the contributions that the gentleman from Washington (Mr. Dicks) made and also the staff, both his staff and the staff of the subcommittee. It has been a real pleasure to work with the gentleman from Washington on this bill.

Mr. Chairman, today I would ask Members in their mind's eye to fast forward to the year 2049, 50 years from now, because their actions and votes on this bill will be the America we leave to our children and grandchildren.

We have to ask ourselves some questions: Will it be an America free from the scars of resource exploitation? We have put an extra \$11 million for the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund to avoid that problem.

Will it be an Everglades fully watered and with its unique ecology preserved and enhanced? Again, when it is all said and done, we will have spent about \$10 billion of U.S. taxpayer dollars to take care of the Everglades. If Members read the language in the bill, they will see we are making a point that we want to ensure that there is an adequate water supply, not just now but 50 years from now.

Will it be a Nation with clean air, clean water, with rivers that we point to with pride? Will there be 629 million acres of forests, parks, fish and wildlife facilities and grazing lands, with beautiful vistas, with unique ecological wonders?

Will there be an Smithsonian that continues to tell the unique story of our Nation's heritage? Will there be a Kennedy Center that continues to excite millions of visitors with a wide range of artistic opportunities? Will there be a Holocaust Museum that con-

tinues to remind Americans and people from many nations that this tragedy shall never happen again? Will there be a National Gallery Of Art and Sculpture Garden that shares the treasures of many nations in addition to our own?

Will there be new sources of energy that foster a livable society with a prosperous economy? Will we be a Nation that respects its arts and its humanities?

Members get to answer those questions today by giving a resounding vote of yes to this bill. We will soon be voting on a \$265 billion defense bill to defend many of the values that this bill represents. Fourteen billion dollars, the amount of this bill, is a small price to invest in preserving these values.

We have made a number of important policy changes. The Inspector General at the Department of the Interior told us that the National Park Service was unable to balance its books. We have instituted reforms and turned that situation around in 18 months. This bill continues those reforms. We have made changes in many programs as a result of 18 oversight hearings over the past 4 years.

We have heard about the \$1 million comfort stations built by the U.S. Park Service. We have streamlined and reformed the way in which the Park Service manages its construction program, and we are not going to have those kinds of activities in the future.

According to testimony of the leaders of the National Park Service, the Forest Service, the Smithsonian, all of these agencies, that we have a \$15 billion backlog maintenance. We have to take care of what we have, and we are doing that in this bill. We continue to work at it, and I think it makes a difference.

Our subcommittee recently visited some facilities in the State of Washington. In Olympic National Park we saw a building that was being fixed as a result of fees and as a result of the understanding that we need to take care of maintenance.

We are looking into problems of financial and contract management in the Department of Energy, the Forest Service, and the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

We have provided for the Everglades restoration effort in this bill. A unique feature, and I think it is one of management, that is that we require the States to provide a 25 percent match on weatherization. Forty-eight of the States have current balances, some of them over \$1 billion. I think the States have a responsibility of participating, and frankly, if they do, they are going to be a little more careful how they manage the funds. Now they manage the funds and we provide all the money. Under this proposal, we have not reduced weatherization significantly; we are saying, States, you put up 25 percent and we will be able to do more. We will also get better management of the dollars involved. I think